



Hancock Complex Update
Central Oregon Incident Management Team
Incident Commander: Mark Rapp
For Immediate Release: August 29, 2011, 7 am
Hancock Complex Fire Information 541-787-4322

General Information/Announcements:

Yesterday new fires, burnout operations and wind driven fire contributed to increasing the Hancock Complex to 45,000 acres with 50% containment.

Branch I northwest of Fossil, a fire located in Thirtymile Creek became active in the afternoon. The fire expanded along Thirtymile Creek, northwest toward the John Day River. The fire also moved north and south coming out of Thirtymile Canyon. The storm dropped enough precipitation on the northern portion of the fire to check its movement and create hazardous, slippery road conditions for the firefighters. The southern portion of the fire received little precipitation.

Branch II near Clarno, firefighters made good progress on the fire located approximately 2 miles east of the Washington Family Ranch. Burnout operations eliminated the threat to the structures.

The storm last night produced lightning and rain over most of the area; although the precipitation was spotty. At least three new fires were detected in Branch II and more are anticipated as the grassy fuels dry out today.

Today's Planned Activities:

In Branch I firefighting resources will assess the situation continuing suppression efforts where needed and patrolling the areas that received more rain on the fire in Thirtymile Creek.

In Branch II firefighters will patrol for hot spots on a majority of the fires. Resources will be assigned once the new fires have been located and assessed for appropriate action.

Weather:

Today will be warm and breezy after yesterday's thunderstorms. Temperatures are expected near 90 degrees, west winds 5-10 mph increasing to 10-15 mph with gusts to 25 mph this afternoon.

Hancock Complex Fire:
Location: Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler Co.
Date Started: 08/24/2011
Cause: Lightning
Size: 45,000 acres
Percent Contained: 50%
Total Personnel: 307
Resources: Crews: 6, Engines: 20, Helicopters: 2- medium, 1-heavy lift, Water tenders: 6 and Overhead: 79

